

EXTRACTS
FROM
MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF
Baltimore Yearly Meeting
OF
MEN AND WOMEN FRIENDS,
HELD IN THEIR MEETING HOUSE,
ON LOMBARD STREET,
IN THE CITY OF BALTIMORE,
1878.

BALTIMORE:
INNES & COMPANY, PAMPHLET PRINTERS.
1878.

We were also reminded of the love and unity which characterized Friends in the early days of this Society, by the oft repeated expression, "See these Quakers how they love one another," and incited to greater faithfulness in the maintenance of this great principle, and shown that as we are concerned to abide here, love, pure and undefiled, would flow from heart to heart, which would ensure peace to our spirits.

It was brought forcibly to our remembrance, that to simply attend meetings, did not constitute worship, although this of itself was an important duty; but if we meet under a mantle of the Father's love in all poverty of spirit, with an entire dependence on that invisible teacher, "Christ within us," we shall be profited, and have a feast, though not a word be spoken, although we go in poverty of spirit, we shall be filled, and made to feel that it was good for us to have been there, the whole temple being filled with that love which animates and feeds the soul.

The young were exhorted to greater faithfulness in the attendance of meetings, and reminded of the diligence and fortitude of our ancestors in early days, that when the fathers were taken to prison, the young people gathered together and kept up the meetings.

We were led to rejoice over the reported clearness of our members from the use of intoxicating stimulants, and our young men encouraged to surround themselves with sufficient resolution to still withstand the temptation; and we were shown that as we were surrounded by an unswerving determination ourselves, we should carry and exert an influence wherever we go, and not to feel fettered by our own church associations when called up by others not in membership in furthering the great temperance reformation, when not in conflict with our principles; and these admonitions were joined by those in the younger walks of life who bore a strong testimony to the necessity of discouraging in every possible way the use of all intoxicants, and also tobacco, as it was urged that habit was stronger than chains, and not easily broken, and if we would be preserved we must not take the first wrong step.

The company of a number of Friends from other Yearly Meetings has been truly acceptable to us, whose counsel and gospel labors has encouraged us to renew our confidence in that arm of Divine Power which is ever extended to aid and support us amid the many trials and temptations which beset our pathway in our journey Zionward.

Our meeting, though not so large as usual, has been truly a season of feasting, and we have been brought to feel that the Good Master has been with us, that our tables have been bountifully spread with

ripe fruits from the Lord's vineyard, and that we have been preserved in that unity of spirit which is ever the bond of peace.
Finally, brethren, farewell.

Signed by direction of the Meeting aforesaid.

JONATHAN D. NOXON, *Clerk.*

A MEMORIAL OF BALTIMORE MONTHLY MEETING, CONCERNING JOHN NEEDLES.

This our beloved friend was born in Talbot county, Maryland, on the 4th of 10th Month, 1786. His parents, Edward and Mary Needles, were exemplary and useful members of the Society of Friends. He lost both parents early in life, his mother when he was an infant, his father and step-mother when he was about ten or eleven years of age. Thus, in life's early morning, was he deprived of these invaluable aids to his inexperienced footsteps. He appears to have been a child of very tender sensibilities, and often bore testimony to the voice of "*the monitor in his own breast*," which told him of acts that were evil, and brought him under condemnation even at this early age, and which in after years, when he was exposed to greater temptations, preserved him from more serious errors, the solicitations of evil companions and profane swearing, having never in his life uttered an oath. In speaking of these things on one occasion he remarked, "When I remember the narrow escapes I have made from being led into ruin by the persuasions of those with whom I was living I feel deeply grateful to my heavenly Father, and often desire that the dear youth and precious children of this day may be protected from like snares and pitfalls."

When about sixteen years of age he bound himself an apprentice to JAMES NEAL, of Easton, for five years, to learn the business of cabinet making. In this family, he testifies that he was treated with great kindness, and was allowed to attend Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, a privilege which he appears to have highly appreciated.

After serving out his apprenticeship he removed to Baltimore, ar-

riving in the 10th Month, 1808, about the time of our Yearly Meeting, which he attended, it being the first time he had attained to this privilege, (for so he considered it,) and loved it from that time to the end of his long life, attending sixty-nine consecutive Yearly Meetings.

In 1810 he commenced in this City the business of cabinet making on his own account, opening his shop, he says, and "going to work alone." Being prudent, temperate and industrious, success attended his efforts.

On the 29th of 5th Month, 1811, he was united in marriage with ELIZA, daughter of MORDECAI and RUTH MATTHEWS, of Gunpowder Monthly Meeting, a young woman of excellent mind, and sweet and engaging disposition. In her new home she entered at once into her husband's cares and views of life, and soon gathered around her many loving friends, some of whom still survive to bear witness to the purity and loveliness of her character, and the fidelity with which she discharged the duties of wife, mother and friend. Very precious to some of these who knew her well, are the memory and the retrospect of her beautiful life in the midst of her children, where she, with her beloved husband, ruled by the *power of love alone*.

It was rare to see a family of nine children more united, and rarer still that they should *all* yet survive to bear witness to this heavenly power that governed in the hearts of both parents, and to cherish their memory and the rich legacy of love they have left behind both for them and for us.

His beloved companion departed this life in the year 1840, in the 47th year of her age, and of their married life he bears this important testimony: "We lived together nearly twenty-nine years in great unity and harmony, with one continued flow of love for each other, and without one circumstance ever having occurred to separate the chain of affection, and with our children around us we have enjoyed the blessings of a kind and gracious Providence, in an eminent degree."

Recurring to the period following this marriage, we reach the time of the last war with Great Britain, which caused much suffering among those who had a testimony to bear against this great evil. Our dear friend had his full share of the losses occasioned by military requisitions, to which he patiently submitted. Speaking of this period he says, "During the war my business was nearly suspended, but I was not cast down, or over-much discouraged, but still felt that a way would be made for me to get along by *that* Power which had thus far sustained me."

Our friend was deeply interested in the welfare of the African race in this community, and devoted much time, money and labor in pro-

moting the education and best interests of the few, comparatively, who were free from the bonds of slavery. He deeply deplored that this iniquitous system was upheld by the laws of the land, and earnestly aided in every right effort for its abolition; he was careful, however, not to place himself in the position of a violator of the law, and thereby impair his usefulness to the free colored people or lessen the confidence that even the *slave dealers* had in his fearless integrity. He would go to the slave-pens and ask permission to go through to look for those legally entitled to their freedom; and through his efforts many were set at liberty to their great joy and his satisfaction.

In the year 1826 he assisted Benjamin Lundy in establishing the *Genius of Universal Emancipation*, bought the type and aided him all he could, and had the press in his warehouse. He thus became well known and everywhere recognized as the colored man's friend.

In the year 1842 he again entered into marriage with Lydia Smith, a worthy Friend who he said was a true helpmeet to him; but her health being very frail, they were permitted to live together only five years.

He subsequently married, with the approbation of his children, Mary Ann Bowers, a valued Friend and an approved Minister. She was a good wife and kind mother to his children, who were favored to live with her in harmony to the end of her life.

We come now to speak more particularly of his religious labors which extended over a long period of years, during which he made numerous journeys to various parts of the country, often traveling in his own carriage with other ministering Friends, sometimes being absent for several months at a time. He thus visited all of the Yearly Meetings of our Society (except Illinois, recently established) and some of them several times, as well as many of the Quarterly and other Meetings, and in some instances the families composing them.

When he first felt called upon to appear before the people as a Minister of the Gospel, (in the fifty-fifth year of his age) it was with great reluctance that he yielded to the heavenly vision, not feeling that he was worthy to appear in that capacity; but when after repeated calls and refusals and having had to pass through seasons of deep baptism on account of his disobedience, he was at length made willing to give up body, soul and spirit to the direction of his Divine Master, a sweet and heavenly peace attended his mind, such as those only know who have thus yielded to the performance of duties in accordance with Divine requiring. And often have his exhortations been to others, "Acquaint thyself with God and be at peace."

His religion was one that not only led him to *be* good, but to *do* good, thus giving him the mark of true discipleship. He took a lively interest in whatever tended to the relief and uplifting of humanity. His love and sympathy went out to all, and he was often found visiting the poor, the sick and afflicted, and those that were in prison.

The First Day Schools and Bible classes, instituted of later years had his sympathy and encouragement, as he thought they indicated a desire on the part of those engaged in them to promote the spiritual growth and well being of one another and of the rising generation.

He retained his faculties in a remarkable degree to the last, and being on a visit to his friends near Chestertown, Maryland, while in his usual health he started to walk across a field alone to a neighbor's when he was stricken down by apoplexy and thus passed suddenly and peacefully away in the 92nd year of his age.

The chief characteristics of this our friend were piety, benevolence, temperance and energy, and it may be truly said the world is better for his having lived in it. A not unworthy epitaph.

Read in and approved by Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Men and Women Friends, held 9th month 4th, 1879.

WILLIAM WOOD, *Clerk.*
MARTHA S. TOWNSEND,
Clerk for the Day.

Read in and approved by Baltimore Quarterly Meeting of Men and Women Friends, held at Gunpowder, 8th of the 9th month, 1879.

THOS. H. MATTHEWS,
LYDIA C. STABLER,
Clerks.

Read and approved in Baltimore Yearly Meeting held by adjournments, from the 27th of 10th Month, to the 30th of the same, inclusive, 1879.

LEVI K. BROWN,
MARY C. CUTLER,
Clerks.

A MEMORIAL OF HOPEWELL MONTHLY MEETING, FREDERICK CO., VA., CONCERNING OUR DECEASED FRIEND, JOSEPH BRANSON.

"The memory of the just is blessed."

Under a humbling sense of the great loss we feel in the removal of our friend and father in Israel, Joseph Branson, and while the precious savor of his *exemplary* life remains fresh in our memory, we feel it right to preserve a short account of his life and faithfulness in the cause of TRUTH.

He was the son of Abraham and Sarah Branson, who were both consistent members of the Society of Friends, and was born in Frederick county, Virginia, on the 1st day of First Month, 1796.

In early life, he gave up to the admonitions of Divine Truth, and was a good example of uprightness to the young people with whom he associated.

In the year 1827, he was united in marriage with Tacy Wright, a union which continued in the greatest harmony for 38 years.

About the year 1840, his friends felt it right to appoint him to the station of Elder, which position he filled, to the satisfaction of his meeting, for 20 years. It was then believed he had received a gift in the ministry, which was acknowledged in the year 1860.

His communications were short, but bore evidence of Divine authority, and were impressive and always acceptable, his principal desire being to bring to view the necessity of individual faithfulness to *known* duty, believing that man, at this time, stands in the same relation to the author of his being, that he ever did in any age of the world. One of his last communications, when at meeting, was: "One hour in the courts of the Lord is worth a thousand elsewhere."

Although he never traveled a great deal in the ministry, yet he was ever ready to assist those who were engaged in that religious duty, and his kindness and hospitality in the entertainment of traveling Friends, were prominent features in his life.

He several times, in earlier life, went as companion to our late dear Friend, Miriam G. Gover, in her religious visits through parts of Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

He was diligent in the attendance of all his meetings; always arranging his business affairs in such a way as not to interfere with his attending those near the middle of the week, and was generally found

mostly avoided. Not so clear of attending places of diversion. Moderation and temperance are generally observed. One report makes an exception in regard to the sale of intoxicating liquors.

FIFTH.

The necessities of the poor have been inspected and relieved, and care taken to provide for the school education of their children.

SIXTH.

Our testimony against a hireling ministry, oaths, military services, clandestine trade, prize goods and lotteries, appears to be generally maintained.

SEVENTH.

Most Friends are careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances, and to avoid involving themselves in business beyond their ability to manage; are generally just in their dealings, and endeavor to be punctual in complying with their engagements. Where any give reasonable grounds for fear in these respects, care has been extended.

EIGHTH.

Our testimony against oppression in its various forms appears to be generally maintained. Children in Friends' families are provided for and instructed in useful learning. One report expresses a concern that more care should be observed to prevent cruelty to children; also cruelty to animals.

NINTH.

Care is mostly taken to deal with offenders in accordance with the Discipline, and to evince to those who will not be reclaimed, the spirit of meekness and love before they are disowned.

TENTH.

Bartlett Haviland, an Elder and member of Forrest Particular and Little Falls Monthly Meeting, departed this life the 13th day of the Eighth Month, 1877, in the 62d year of his age.

Benjamin Hallowell, an Approved Minister and member of Sandy Spring Particular and Monthly Meeting, departed this life the 7th day of the Ninth Month, 1877, in the 79th year of his age.

Lydia Jefferis, an Elder and member of Western District Particular and Baltimore Monthly Meeting, departed this life the 17th day of the Ninth Month, 1877, in the 91st year of her age.

Mary P. Johns, an Elder and member of Bush Creek Particular and Pipe Creek Monthly Meeting, departed this life the 29th day of the First Month, 1878, in the 76th year of her age.

Elijah Wright, an Elder and member of Monallen Particular and Monthly Meeting, departed this life the 8th day of Second Month, 1878, in the 65th year of his age.

Ann Roberts, an Elder and member of Woodlawn Particular and Alexandria Monthly Meeting, departed this life the 3d day of the Third Month, 1878, in the 91st year of her age.

Lydia B. Taylor, an Elder and member of Goose Creek Particular and Monthly Meeting, departed this life the 29th day of the Fifth Month, 1878, in the 76th year of her age.

Jane Underwood, an Elder and member of Bald Eagle Particular and Centre Monthly Meeting, departed this life the 1st day of the Seventh Month, 1878, in the 70th year of her age.

Thomasin Sidwell, an Elder and member of Centre Particular and Hopewell Monthly Meeting, departed this life the 9th day of the Seventh Month, 1878, in the 83d year of her age.

John Needles, an Approved Minister and member of Western District Particular and Baltimore Monthly Meeting, departed this life the 18th day of the Seventh Month, 1878, in the 92d year of his age.

ELEVENTH.

A Meeting for Worship has been settled at Oxford, Chester County, Pennsylvania, under the joint care of Penn's Grove and Nottingham Monthly Meetings, to be held on the First Day of the week at 10 o'clock A. M.

TWELFTH.

Friends are mostly careful as far as practicable to place their children for tuition under the care of suitable teachers in membership with us.

Then adjourned to 3 o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

David Pyle, an Elder and member of Fawn Particular and Deer Creek Monthly Meeting, departed this life on the 5th day of the First Month, 1879, in the 74th year of his age.

Elizabeth Garretson, an Elder and member of Dunnings Creek Particular and Monthly Meeting, departed this life on the 20th day of the First Month, 1879, in the 79th year of her age.

George Hewitt, an Elder and member of Monallen Particular and Monthly Meeting, departed this life on the 26th day of the First Month, 1879, in the 87th year of his age.

Archibald Robinson, an Elder and member of Back Creek Particular and Hopewell Monthly Meeting, departed this life on the 8th day of the Second Month, 1879, in the 71st year of his age.

Mary B. Needles, a Minister and member of Western District Particular and Baltimore Monthly Meeting, departed this life on the 7th day of the Fourth Month, 1879, in the 80th year of her age.

John A. Blackburn, an Elder and member of Dunnings Creek Particular and Monthly Meeting, departed this life on the 6th day of the Sixth Month, 1879, in the 85th year of his age.

Gerard H. Reese, an Elder and member of Western District Particular and Baltimore Monthly Meeting, departed this life on the 31st day of the Eighth Month, 1879, in the 61st year of his age.

ELEVENTH.

No new Meetings have been settled during the past year.

TWELFTH.

Most Friends appear careful, as far as practicable, to place their children for tuition under the care of suitable teachers in membership with us.

19. The Standing Committee on the Indian Concern made the following Report, which was read and approved. The committee was continued, and the sum of \$200 was granted them as proposed in their Report:

BALTIMORE, 10th Month 27, 1879.

To Baltimore Yearly Meeting:

The Standing Committee on the Indian Concern, report: that the agreement made with President Hayes, and Secretary Schurz, that we should commence our work afresh at the Pawnee Agency (as mentioned in our last report) by the appointment of another Agent and employes, has been a failure.

The Executive Committee advertised soon after our last yearly Meeting for an Agent for the Pawnees, and our advertisement was responded to by eight or ten applications. On the 27th of 12th month last the Executive Committee met in Baltimore, and after a careful examination of the credentials and recommendations of the several applicants, one was selected who, in the judgment of the Committee, was well qualified to fill the position. Second month eighteenth, 1879, the Secretary presented his name to the Indian Office, with the approval of the Executive Committee, and other recommendations, and the applicant was required to appear at the Interior Department on a day named, for an examination; when, according to his statement, a few questions were asked, and he left, with the expectation of hearing either that he was appointed or rejected, but after waiting a month, without receiving any intimation of what the Indian Office would do in the matter, the Secretary of this Meeting called (3d month 18th, 1879) on the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and was informed that the department considered the applicant entirely unfitted for the position, and that they had appointed an Agent for the Pawnees.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Baltimore 3d month 18th, 1879, the Secretary was instructed to write to the Secretary of the Interior, and the following letter was approved by the Committee and promptly forwarded:

SANDY SPRING, 3d Month 21, 1879.

HON. CARL SCHURZ, Sec'y of the Interior:

At a meeting of a Committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, to which had been assigned by the President of the